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Report on each of the thematic priorities defined in the second phase of the identification and consultation processes (Health, Transport and Environment)

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1 Executive summary

Within Work Package 2 of the WBC-INCO.NET project, the priority setting process took place with the main aim to identify joint RTD priorities and potentials for the region of the Western Balkans, all in accordance with the proposed sound methodology, and in a transparent way. Based on the consultation of governmental stakeholders from the region, the initially intended nine workshops, dedicated to different priorities of FP7 Cooperation Programme, were reduced to five, aimed at priorities with the biggest current potential for regional cooperation.

Following the process that started in December 2008 and included a session on ICT, and a further session on AgroFood in January 2009, three more consultation sessions were held during May and June 2009 in three Western Balkan countries. These sessions were dedicated to the following research topics: Health, Transport and Environment. In that way, the series of five consultation sessions was completed.

The series of consultation sessions aimed at defining thematic regional research priorities for WBC. Another part of the sessions was devoted to giving recommendations for major generic activities and for further cooperation possibilities with the WBC.

However, the process of national priority setting differed for these three topics. In case of ICT and AgroFood, results, namely the SCORE and BAFN projects, were already available for four WBC (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FY Republic of Macedonia, Serbia). Therefore, within the WBC-INCO.NET, reports for Croatia and Montenegro were developed, following the proposed methodology. On the other hand, for the themes of Health, Transport and Environment, described in this report, no similar exercises were carried out so far, and reports were prepared in accordance with the WBC-INCO.NET methodology for the whole region. Additionally a report was also prepared by Kosovo*. In total, a set of seven national background reports on the S&T systems and the national priorities for each WBC per Theme was produced.

The respective consultation sessions were held according to the following schedule: Health -Tirana, Albania, on 12 and 13 May, 2009; Transport – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 19 and 20 May, 2009; Environment – Skopje, FYR of Macedonia, 16 and 17 of June, 2009. Again, representatives of different stakeholders, i.e. researchers, industry representatives, governmental representatives, together discussed joint research priorities. The suggestion to include members of the FP7 Programme Committees was followed, and there was at least one present at each of the sessions. In addition, DG RTD representatives also took part in the sessions, learning on the spot about the specific research needs and possible initiatives of the Western Balkan region.

* under UNSCR 1244

The priorities were defined as follows:

Health:

- Oncology
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Public health
- Mental health
- Infectious diseases

Transport:

- Impact of surface transport on environment and safety
 - a) Coastal seas
 - b) Inland waterways
 - c) Railways
 - d) Roads
- Advanced materials and structures engineering for safer and greener means of transport
- Passenger and freight intermodal transport and optimal use of various transport modes
- Application of advanced simulations in transport systems
- Application of ICT in intelligent transport systems

Environment:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Cleaner production/Environmental technologies
- Ecosystems
- Cultural heritage

Also, the invited experts in the events gave presentations on other initiatives that can be of interest to the participants. These initiatives provide support activities the researchers can participate in, and provide therefore a basis for cooperation. The participants learned about thematic ERA – NETs, Technology Platforms, ongoing NCP projects, etc. The invited external experts had also an important role in the discussions giving on one hand substantial input and – some of them - being on the other hand excellent moderators of these sessions.

Since the report on the first two workshops was comprehensive and detailed (Deliverable 2.10), it was agreed between the Work Package and the Task leader to focus this report more on priorities and recommendations defined, and less on the presentations¹.

¹ Full reports as well as presentations can be found on the project web-site: <http://www.wbc-inco.net/object/calendar/33008.html> for Health

<http://www.wbc-inco.net/object/calendar/33017.html> for Transport

2 Consultation session on Health: key issues and discussion

[The agenda and list of participants are given in Annex1](#)

The consultation session on health took place in Tirana, on May 12 and 13, 2009.

After being welcomed by Mr Edmond **AGOLLI**, Advisor at the Ministry of Education and Science, Mrs. Adriana **GJONAJ**, Deputy Minister for Education and Science and Dr Arian **HARXHI**, Deputy Minister of Health, as well as Mr Andreas **KAHLE** from German Federal Ministry of Research and Education, as representative of the WP leader, the participants introduced themselves to each other during a *tour de table*.

An introduction to the WBC-INCO.NET project, and its WP2, including aims and scope of the session followed, by Ms Ulrike **KUNZE**, PT-DLR and Ms Tatjana **KNEZEVIC**, Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro. The representative of the EC DG RTD, Ms Joana **NAMORADO** presented the FP7 Health Work Programme. These presentations gave outlook on what was expected as an outcome of the session.

2.1 Presentation of S&T systems and regional research priorities

Each of the analytical experts involved in the development and preparation of the national background report presented the findings of the consultation process that took place prior to the workshop. In general, these presentations were in line with the recommended structure for the background reports, covering the following aspects:

- legal and strategic framework for RTD in general and implications to health research
- institutional framework
- health research performers
- human resources
- research projects – national and international
- investment (governmental and other) – general (as percentage of GDP), or specific (e.g. on equipment)
- investment – equipment
- publications and patents
- SWOT analysis
- list of priorities (general); priorities based on readiness²; priorities based on future potential³

<http://www.wbc-inco.net/object/calendar/33002.html> for Environment

² priorities for which the country has the appropriate human resources and research infrastructures in order to pursue research and development

The presenters were as follows:

Mr Genard **HAJDINI** (Institute for Public Health) presented the **Albanian S&T system and priorities**. As Prof Ana **MARUŠIĆ** (University of Split) introduced the participants to the findings of the **Croatian** experts. Ms. Aspazija **SOFIJANOVA** presented the health research landscape in **FYR of Macedonia**. Dr Lul **RAKA** presented the report for **Kosovo**⁴, and Prof. Dr Bogdan **ASANIN**, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, presented the **Montenegrin** findings. Dr Olgica **DJAKOVIC-DJURKOVIC** presented the report of **Serbia**. The analytical expert in charge of the national background report for **Bosnia and Herzegovina** had to cancel his participation, due to urgent matters that occurred in the country, so the report was not presented during the workshop. However, the background report was available to the participants prior to the workshop, and other members of the Bosnian delegation took actively part in the discussions that followed.

It became obvious that many similarities between the Western Balkan countries (WBC) exist, e.g. the countries are all in transition, share difficulties with research equipment, face brain–drain and fluctuation of investment into research.

As for the overarching research strategies they are either adopted, or in the adoption phase. Sectoral strategies are developed, but in some cases they do not address research. In most of the countries, health research is recognized as a priority field; however, no dedicated programmes to this specific field of research exist.

The experience in international research programmes varies from country to country. Some of the countries (Croatia, Serbia) are participating in EC FP more than others. Moreover, these two already have experience as project coordinators, which can be considered as a rather important achievement.

With respect to the number of and the quality of scientific publications, there is still room for improvement in the region, but again, some of the WBC are more advanced than the others. Some of the WBC have also problems with providing valid and reliable statistical data, which made the preparatory work of the experts difficult.

³ priorities considered to be attractive for the country and have future potential. However, the level of readiness and capacity to pursue research and development is currently low.

⁴ Under UNSCR 1244

2.2 Discussion on joint priorities and recommendations for joint generic activities

Each of the presenters was asked to define the most important priorities.

Country priorities

	Albania		BIH		Croatia		FYRMacedonia		Kosovo*		Montenegro		Serbia	
Oncology	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Cardiovascular	X		X		X	x	X		X	x	X		X	
Public Health	X	x	X	x	X		X		X					
Mental /Neuro	X		X	x	X				X				X	
Infection	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Genetics/MB					X	x	X	x		x		x	X	x
Pharma							X			x			X	x
Biotechnology		x		x	X	x						x		
IT-Network		x				x		x				x		

*Under UN SCR 1244

Table 1: list of priorities based on the country reports

One of the main aims of the session was to identify research priorities that would be in line with those of FP7. However, it became obvious during the discussion that not all participants have same knowledge on FP7, its goals and opportunities, which could be also explained by the different level of participation in previous FPs. Some of them have been actively participating since FP5, mostly as so-called '3rd countries' (e.g. Serbia), while others are just getting involved into the programme.

One part of the discussion was aimed at exchange of experience, suggesting the best models for participation and modes of getting involved into the programme. Many useful suggestions and conclusions can be drawn from this part.

The EC representative, Ms Joana **NAMORADO** informed that until that point there had been at least 5 or 6 supported proposals with participants from the region, which can be considered as a success. For a start it makes sense to participate as a project partner of a larger EU project, and not as coordinator. It is important to participate, and there should be no hesitations in trying to join consortia. Prospective participants from the region should try and find partners (via CORDIS, through their national Programme Committee members, etc.). It is crucial for the WBC to

Dissemination level: RE

understand that their ideas can be incorporated into larger projects. In addition, initial failure should not be discouraging. It often happens that a project idea, improved and modified, only gets funded in the third attempt, or it can even take longer.

However, the question that can be raised is that if including partners from the Western Balkan region can actually jeopardize the success of the project. It was explained that sometimes consortia considered as `strong` can actually prove not to be successful (e.g. including several Nobel prize winners within one consortium). On the other hand, including partners with different level of expertise and experience can have good results, but it is crucial to convince the evaluators that one particular partner is excellent for the task and can carry it out. It was pointed out that, e.g., within FP6, applicants were encouraged to include partners from this region, but now this is not the case any more.

Since FP7 Health theme mainly dedicates funds for research and not infrastructure or capacities, it is important to explore other possibilities (i.e. financial sources) within FP7, for example `Capacities` and `Marie Curie` specific programmes (there are still no capacities within the region for `Ideas`, since it is dealing with frontier research), especially since there is a clear signal from the Commission that targeted calls for WBC are not planned. `Capacities` is important, it provides support to development of human capacities and funds infrastructure. More importantly, it provides possibilities to the Western Balkan Countries to participate as coordinators (e.g. in REGPOT call – Croatia already has successful projects with health research institutions involved). `Marie Curie` activities are useful, providing the basis for new projects, facilitates establishment of strong partnerships. Participation in networks, such as NoE or smaller one, is also encouraged.

The participants are also strongly encouraged to become evaluators of FP7 projects. The application procedure is not complex, and it is very good for gaining experience. Also, the evaluation provides the experts with insight knowledge on proposals, proposal writing, and has a positive impact on project proposal writing skills.

Moreover, several other mechanisms that support research in Europe and are more fit for less experienced countries, were mentioned. E.g. COST, is considered to be an exceptionally interesting instrument used to construct ERA. Lead by a subject, on a national level, it gives rise to one of the big projects. TEMPUS programme is another programme that should be considered. Beside these, research ministries of EU countries often dedicate resources to WBC (e.g. in Austria, targeted at SMEs and universities)

One of the points of the discussion was how the region can actually influence the EC, and FP7 Health Work Programmes. It was explained that the Commission actually develops the work programmes based on inputs from different groups, such as Programme Committee members, or, in case of Health, IMI (Innovative Medicine Initiative) ideas are taken into consideration. The ideas are proposed as so-called Expression of Interests (Eoi). However, it is crucial to develop a strong network that would propose and support the idea to the European Commission. As one of the suggestions was to work through the *liaison offices* in Brussels, invite EC representatives to the events they organise, or, use the opposite approach – make national events and also invite the Commission. Conferences in the field are another way of establishing contacts that can be the beginning of future success stories within FP. Usually these conferences leave space for working groups, where

participants of different stakeholders work together, the conclusions are drafted and topics are made up. Usually NCPs have lists of these meetings for some period in advance.

It is important to know about the cycle and timing of Work Programme (WP) preparations. There are usually three phases of setting up a WP:

- 1) collecting ideas
- 2) preparation of the draft
- 3) adoption – inter-service consultation

Programme Committee gives formal opinion, later adopted by the Commission. Only after that the call is published.

External consultation also takes place, taking different aspects into consideration, e.g. input on more horizontal issues (INCO, SMEs needs, cross-thematic areas), bottom-up parts (Capacities, Ideas and People)

Apart from already mentioned ones, the Commission also consults other stakeholders, such as Advisory Group (consisting of MS representatives and some AC members as well; it has a strategic role), Technology Platforms and others.

Usually, the process of developing work programme starts in autumn, adopting takes place the following spring, and the calls are usually published in July. The cycle of setting-up a WP has to be taken into consideration when trying to propose a topic.

Giving the input, it is crucial that the text describing a topic is in line with the programme. The same topic is usually not funded twice. Equally important are good justifications for proposing, European added value, existing political debates, council conclusions, etc.

What should also be taken into consideration is, if the needs and themes addressed actually contain real research projects, or if they refer more to application, and to differentiate if the needs are more appropriate for the opportunities provided by DG RTD or DG SANCO (in charge of public health). E.g. identified problems related to **cardio-vascular diseases** are more to be addressed by public health activities than through research. Also, synergies between these should be explored, e.g. “cross-border health care: development of the appropriate methodology for implementation” is a topic to be addressed by DG RTD, whereas necessary legal measures would be addressed by DG SANCO. There are no restrictions to applying within different programmes.

From Table 2 it seems that regional priorities are to a large extent in line with the FP7 priorities. It is then important to define what the regional specificities are and what the region can contribute, i.e. where the regional excellence lies.

Many common issues are identified: all the WBCs are small and in transition. They lack infrastructure and human capacities in case of clinical trials, and there is a need for training of professionals in translational research. Other possibilities for cooperation were also mentioned:

- **Cancer registry** – in some countries of the region it has already been established, in some not. However, this topic was supported under FP6. It is

very unlikely that the topic will come up again as such. The countries can try and network, and try docking to already ongoing projects.

- **Translational medicine in oncology** is needed the most. Europe lacks this knowledge. Training professionals in translational medicine and improving clinical trials is important. Socio-economic conditions reflect the health, and the specific question would be whether the wars and crises have influenced it in the region. E.g. Croatia is leading in prostate cancer in Europe. **Child oncology** is also important and identified as a problem in the region.
- **Stroke** is another big problem, at both EU and regional levels. There is a network of 14 countries dealing with this issue, but none from the WB is included. It would be advisable to collaborate with the existing network and complement the initiative. An Expression of Interest on it can be written and forwarded to the Commission. There are no unified guidelines in Europe for **early detection of stroke**.
- Harmonized Western Balkans **bio bank** – can be a big platform to get into FP projects. There are also many other merging projects.
- **Emerging food and waterborne zoonoses (zoonotic infections)** – ‘politically correct’ and justified by: existing human potential; existing cases; water resources; EoI has to have statistics, a person to put the statistics together and write it down.
- **Hepatitis A, B, C, E (emerging)** – first, it has to be solved whether it can be considered as an infectious or a public health issue. It can be: chronic inflammatory, infectious, or viral. In the WBC, each country can contribute with its expertise (Bosnia and Herzegovina – epidemiology, Croatia – research and vaccine development, etc.)
- **Mental health** issues are addressed through a lot of research activities, e.g. those investigating the relation between mental health, cancer, cardiovascular disease (ageing, endocrinology, etc.). There was a similar call in FP6 in 2002 – but different phrasing is needed at the moment. Results of the previous activities should be checked, and larger consortium made. After that, the EC should be addressed. War in WBC and related consequences could be used as a model, but should not be restricted to that case only, in order it to have a European dimension. A perfectly studied, well documented proposal, can be taken into consideration (e.g. relation made to the occurrence of similar events, e. g. September 11, Bask, Israel and Palestine)
- Other joint problems mentioned were: **transparency of clinical trials; visibility of PhD thesis** caused by **lack of publishing** in the WBC.

Priority	Specification	Specific WBC interest	Comment
Oncology	Cancer registries (topic from FP6 revisited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack and improvement 	
	Translational medicine (training of professionals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries in transition 	
Cardiovascular diseases	Stroke research (early detection guidelines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonise guidelines for early detection as a model case 	Existing network on stroke

Priority	Specification	Specific WBC interest	Comment
Public Health	Prevention of disease and risk factors, specific epidemiological cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition • Post traumatic stress • Emerging problems 	
	Emerging food and water borne zoonoses (zoonotic infections), pollution of water (tourists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human potential • Enough existing cases • Water resources • Nutritional value 	
Mental Health	Long term influence of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on mental health – parallel to terrorist attack cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the model of war 	See FP6 project
Infectious diseases	Epidemiological research on viral Hepatitis A, B, C, E (emerging)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening and Status quo • Research • Vaccine 	

Table 2: Regional research priorities commonly agreed on by the WBC

Since the session was marked as a good opportunity to establish new contacts, it was also suggested that more networking meetings should be enabled and a database of possible partnering institutions provided. This is of crucial importance for those countries that have not appointed their NCP yet. The ongoing thematic NCP networking project provides possibilities for staff exchange, capacity building, and networking.

Recommendations for generic activities

- **Improvement of clinical trials**
- **Emerging food and waterborne diseases and zoo noses**
- **Develop cancer registers within the region**
- **Harmonize the guidelines for early detection of stroke**
- **Antibiotic resistance**
- **Intervention mapping for reduction, change in behaviour**
- **Give new life to the existing networks (e.g. on infectious diseases)**
- **Update list of existing networks**
- **Use NCPs (policy, capacity building, networking, resource pool of contacts)**
- **Coordination of activities**
- **Use existing data bases with researchers profile, harmonize data bases**
- **Create groups of experts based on the topics (e.g. CANCER). NCPs should be instrumental**
- **Common institute in public health**

What can WBC-INCO.NET do? Give input to the Work Programme, the website can be used as a promotional tool, organize a brokerage event on health.

The importance of priority setting was emphasised. The SCORE project was taken as a successful example of a similar exercise and an important experience. Researchers should have a basic know-how on how to write project proposals, get used to the topics identified, and find areas where to write proposals.

2.3 Presentations by invited experts

2.3.1 Cooperation possibilities in the field of Health

Mrs Marta Barrionuevo **HAFNER** presented the Health NCP network and FP7 work programmes, speaking of possibilities within the project, as well as on the structure and the development of FP7 Work Programmes.

2.3.2 Public Health Research in the Western Balkan Countries

Mr Helmut **BRAND** (Maastricht University) presented a public health network for SEE, the main aim of which was to provide training in the field of public health in the region. The training activities have been completed, and now the research component needs to be addressed. The idea is therefore to create a Public health research network for SEE. Existing research challenges are: lack of funds, lack of expertise, and lack of valid data. Since all these need improvement, the strong network of national public health institutions should be made.

2.3.3 Bio banking for biomedical research

Ms Karine **SARGSYAN** (University of Graz) explained the importance of Bio banking for biomedical research, showing the example of the one she is working on (University of Graz – project coordinator, with the best know-how). What is interesting for the region is that 3 projects with SEE are planned. All invited, and kick-off paid by the department. Existing bio banks can be harmonized

2.3.4 SEE health network

Mr Alban **YLLI** presented the SEE Health network, that started since the Stability Pact, with all countries from the region participating.

3 Consultation session on Transport: key issues and discussion

[The agenda and list of participants are provided in Annex 2](#)

The participants were welcomed by Mr Ammar **MIRASCIJA**, representative of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and FP7 national coordinator. and by Mr Andreas **KAHLE** from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, representative of the WP leader. In order to provide guidelines for the discussions that were ahead, the participants were introduced to the WBC-INCO.NET project and its WP2 as well as to the aims and the scope of the session (Mrs Ulrike **KUNZE**, PT-DLR, Ms Tatjana **KNEZEVIC**, Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro), after which Mr Karsten **KRAUSE** from DG RTD presented the FP7 Transport Work Programme.

During a *tour de table* the participants introduced themselves.

3.1 Presentation of S&T systems and regional research priorities

The second part of the morning session and the first in the afternoon were dedicated to the findings of the consultation process that took place in the period prior to the workshop, and resulted in the development of the national background reports. These findings were presented by the analytical experts involved in the development and preparation of these reports.

The presentations mostly followed the structure of the reports, therefore providing data on:

- legal and strategic framework for RTD in general and implications to transport research
- institutional framework
- transport research performers
- human resources
- research projects – national and international
- investment (governmental and other) – general (as percentage of GDP), or specific (e.g. on equipment)
- investment – equipment
- publications and patents
- SWOT analysis
- list of regional research priorities; priorities based on readiness⁵; priorities based on future potential⁶

⁵ priorities for which the country has the appropriate human resources and research infrastructures in order to pursue research and development

The presenters were as follows: Mr Ali **DEDEJ** for Albania; Mr Sasa **DZUMHUR** for Bosnia and Herzegovina; Prof. Dr Ivica **SMOJVER** (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture) for Croatia; Dr Ramadan **DURAKU** (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering) for Kosovo⁷, Dr Danilo **NIKOLIC** (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering) for Montenegro, and MSc Radosav **JOVANOVIC** (Faculty of Transport) for Serbia.

There were no representatives of the FYR of Macedonia present at the meeting, but the priorities they provided through their national background report were taken into consideration during discussions

Similar to the case of the Health theme, the WBC share some of the problems, but also differ in many aspects. Their level of involvement into international research programmes varies from almost negligible to considerable. Furthermore, some of the countries suffer a lack of national transport research programmes and in general do not support a large number of transport research projects.

3.2 Discussion on joint priorities and recommendations for joint generic activities

ALBANIA	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master plan for the development of commercial, tourist and fish ports along Albanian shore; • Study on the inventory of the road network at the all Albanian regions and districts; • Urban plan of traffic and signaling for cities municipalities with a population more then 20 thousand inhabitants; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Traffic Safety Improvement • Mitigation of Environmental Impacts • Improvement of Urban Mobility • Intermodal Transport Development • Transport Infrastructure Management • Traffic Management
CROATIA	FYR OF MACEDONIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological aspects of transport (e.g. noise, pollution) - Environmentally Sustainable Transport • Safety of maritime structures regarding ecological aspects • Advanced materials and structures engineering in the means of transport • Ballast waters management in closed seas • Intermodal transport and harmonization of various modes of transport with final goal of full integration into European 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Traffic: enhancing international competitiveness of road traffic to effectively cope with foreign competition, enhancing the safety of road traffic, and limiting the harmful impact of road traffic on the environment to an optimal level; • Railway Traffic: enhancing the international competitive position of the railway; • Air Traffic: integration of the FY Republic of Macedonia into the single air-transport market, and effective regulation of

⁶ priorities considered to be attractive for the country and have future potential. However, the level of readiness and capacity to pursue research and development is currently low.

⁷ Under UNSCR 1244

<p>transport area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic control, security and safety in urban areas • Advanced design methodology in the development of new means of transport • Integration of maritime and inland harbors • Shipbuilding for inland waterways • Information and communication technologies in intelligent transport systems • <i>Acquis Communautaire</i> in transport • Research on increasing efficiency and reliability of maritime and inland navigation 	<p>service provision in air traffic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of combined transport and multimodal transport terminals. • Investigation the possibility for PPP (public private partnership) in the transport sector • Improvement of the PT (public transport) in the biggest towns of the country
<p>KOSOVO⁸</p>	<p>MONTENEGRO</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of traffic with emphasizes in urban zones, • Traffic Safety, • Mobility and traffic urban plans, • Maintenance and development of traffic infrastructure, • Traffic planning and designing, • Stationary traffic including buses and bus terminals, • Traffic management, • Traffic logistics, • Road traffic and circulation capacity, • Technology systems in integral and inter-modal transport, • Development of railway transport, • Upgrade and quality level of air navigation, • Impact of traffic in environment, • Development of transport legal infrastructure in compliance with <i>acqius communautaire</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on traffic safety. • Research on transport originated emissions of pollutants and noise. • Research on sustainable urban mobility, developing new mobility schemes in cities, which rationalise the use of the private car, promote public transport and conceive innovative non-polluting urban vehicles. • Research on alternative motor fuels. Integration of alternative motor fuels into the transport system, particularly into clean urban transport, the cost-effective and safe production, storage, and distribution of alternative motor fuels, the optimal utilisation of alternative fuels in new concepts of energy efficient vehicles, strategies and tools to manage the market transformation process for alternative motor fuels. • Research on modal shift and decongesting transport corridors - promoting the use of cleaner transportation modes and eliminating extra pollution caused by traffic congestion. • Research on ballast waters management in closed seas.
<p>SERBIA</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport network-related R&D activities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Optimal combinations of different modes (optimodality), aiming at efficient and seamless transport chains (especially for transit). Different combinations of modes may be investigated in 	

⁸ Under UNSCR 1244

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WB environment: e.g. rail/road or air/rail/road in case of passenger transport; rail/ road or water/rail/road for freight transport; 2. Intelligent transport systems, encompassing all transport modes: rail, road, water and air transport; 3. Supply chain management including terminal processes; 4. Charging schemes for use of transport infrastructure. • Vehicle/vessel-related R&D activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of small aircraft; 2. Development of river and river-sea ships; 3. Experimental testing including technical and navigational characteristics and propulsion of loaded ships and pushed convoys, to increase the efficiency of river traffic. 	
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Table 3: Regional research priorities of each of the WBC, based on national background reports

Within the presentation on the FP7 Transport theme, it was firstly stated that so far, transport researchers from the region were mostly involved in CSA. In accordance with that, the long-term objective should be to take up research projects. In that view, it is important to build cross-regional lines (e.g. with Greece or Italy). An EC internal survey shown that in the region, research potential is identified in the area of **transport safety** (sea shipping, infrastructure and maintenance, rail). Transport themes can often be found under different calls. In that sense, NCPs should be consulted.

As for the statistics on participation of the WBC in the FP Transport research so far, it turned out to be unreliable to some extent. Namely, it shows full partners only, but often there are institutes that become part of `umbrella partners`. So, it is difficult to present that in the official statistics. One of the indicators is that they are shown in audits.

Within the European Commission, the low success rate from SEE region was highly debated, but it was commonly agreed that it is not only a problem of these countries – it is also typical for EU countries. Most of the coordinators with partners from the WBC are from `old` EU countries, so the low success rate applies to all.

Also, when speaking of coordinators, it was stated that success usually depends on the leader, and it was suggested to choose promising leaders. In that respect, again NCPs and their transnational cooperation should be utilised in discovering experienced coordinators. In the near future, 2-day brokerage events with 500-600 participants – from Europe and International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC) are organised in Brussels, accompanying active calls.

In spite of the above mentioned, some of the participants pointed out that there still exist difficulties searching the partners, which result in a couple of additional problems: countries from the region are Associated Countries to the FP7. When

uploading profiles on CORDIS, researchers find that there are many EU institutions already there, more experienced and with better expertise, which immediately reduces opportunities to WBC institutions to be contacted for possible joining consortia. Many EU partners submitted proposals within a joint call of the 'Security' and 'Transport' themes,. All the proposals were very high level, so the themes were not applicable to the WBC. The comment was that the themes should be reviewed, and made more adaptable to the less-developed countries.

It was also pointed out that there are plans to improve CORDIS and to make it more useful and user-friendly. Partners can also be found and identified for example via Technology Platforms. Also, it is planned to develop a dedicated partner search for the sector under the ETNA (Ethernet Transport Network Architecture) project. Another problem is that in the Transport theme there are not many large players, and the whole sector is less dynamic when compared to, e.g. ICT. Regarding the finding of topics for the EU calls, it is dealt with at the Transport Committee meetings. All transport research players are allowed to submit proposals. It is up to the region's ability to coordinate joint activities and to lobby for the topics of mutual interest. The competition of topics and funding requires a lot of work.

It was underlined that it is crucial for the WBC to send representatives to the Programme Committee meetings as many of them do not. It has to be clear that participating in those meetings and lobbying does not necessarily bring success, but nevertheless it is a prerequisite to get familiar with the procedures.

It is also important to establish a good communication between NCPs and PC members and the research community. When one becomes a member of the PC, the first problem he/she faces is to understand the language, terminology, and in general, to know about the procedures. It is assumed that getting familiar with the procedures related to PC takes about a year. Sometimes it takes time to establish ways to transfer information (e.g. in Zagreb efforts are being made to establish a link where information can be found, with two types of data: 'classified section', and 'public info'. That would make information available to everyone). Cooperation within the country is crucial. In some member states there is a lack of communication between Transport NCP, FP coordinator and PC member, which reduces the success of work. Therefore, national networks should be established.

Another idea was that it would be useful to see the evaluation reports from the previous calls, to see how the evaluators are evaluating, which will provide guidelines on how to write a proposal. The logical solution to that is to become an evaluator, especially since the procedure is quite simple. When a call is published and applications are submitted, well defined selection criteria are followed for choosing evaluators: type of projects, region, and experts from EU-27. About 100 evaluators are chosen per call. There are two forms of evaluation – in Brussels and remote. Per diems are rather high, and one also learns on how to write project proposals.

Apart from FP7, instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) was mentioned as additional funding source . There are two types of IPA support – Multi-beneficiary (support to regional initiatives) and National. Researchers should contact their Senior Programming Officers (SPOs) in state institutions, since they are in charge of giving input to the Multiannual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD), because it is a prerequisite to have transport mentioned in it as one of the priorities in order to be able to submit proposals.

Starting the discussion on regional research priorities it was observed that looking through all proposals, divided by the nature and geography, it can be concluded that some themes are important only to some of the countries. The logical question would be if it is of high priority to have consensus on topics. It was clarified that at least half of the countries should agree on one theme to be a priority to them. Also, it should be considered that all FP7 topics have to have a European impact. What would be important then is to refine the priorities within a general priority to finally arrive at specific topics. Based on existing infrastructure and human capacities, each country defines the types of projects it can participate in.

Another concern of the experts was that, if the region wants to go along the lines of FP7 priorities such as `green car` and `clean sky`, these are not the themes where the region is competitive. That puts another perspective to the aim of the session and to the definition of research topics jointly agreed upon by the WBC. One of the possible proposals to streamline this priority setting is the **transport treaty** – currently under negotiation, and to be signed by the end of the year by all the countries. So, the suggestion was to try and make the priorities in line with those mentioned in the treaty.

Environment related issues are another problem that is common to the region, as well as infrastructure issues. **Noise maps and proposals on noise and pollution management** are possible joint topics for the region as well.

However, it is not certain that these can be considered under FP7. Even though there is a long list of potential topics, it should be checked if the suggested topics have already been supported, because then they cannot be funded again. Another issue is lobbying and finding an appropriate mode to promote them later, and convince research performers outside the region that they should take them aboard.

A series of other concerns arose. First, the possibility to influence the Transport WP 2010 is rather low, perhaps only by providing details. Next, if these topics are taken into consideration, it is not clear how relevant they are for EC. In the end, it was concluded that the identified regional research priorities can be used as input to the Transport WP 2011 WP.

Another question is if there are other possibilities to fund these proposals, especially since there are important problems in the region that are not strictly related to research, which makes them out of the FP7 scope. Again, the IPA programme and its Multi-beneficiary component could be an opportunity, as well as the Programmes Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), INTERREG (EC initiative aimed at stimulating interregional cooperation) and others. It is crucial to find an appropriate approach to apply under each of these programmes.

1.Impact of surface transport on environment and safety	a. Coastal seas b. Inland waterways c. Railways d. roads
2.Advanced materials and structures engineering for safer and greener means of transport	
3.Passenger and freight intermodal transport and optimal use of various transport modes	
4.Application of advanced simulations in transport systems	
5.Application of ICT in intelligent transport systems	

Table 4: Research priorities of the WBC in the field of Transport

Recommendations for generic activities/strategic activities:

- Make (better) use of NCPs
- Information dissemination on FP participation
- Sustainable regional network of experts/institutions/projects: data base, internet portal
- Use and update WBC-INCO.NET national background reports for data base (refinement)
- Western Balkan Research Conference
- Continue the network of consultation session
- Nominate several persons as NCPs with one coordinator
- Joint PhD studies
- Regional (virtual) supporting office (logistic) funded by WBC governments (?); rather at national level (Serbian model)
- Define common and specific regional research priorities

However, despite the somewhat sceptical view of actual benefits from trying to influence the FP7 WP, the session in Sarajevo was marked highly as an opportunity to make initial contacts, meet people, thus providing basis for future cooperation. All the countries can benefit from such activities, because there are institutions with sufficient capacities in each of the countries that can already now start working on developing joint initiatives. These kind of events are a good starting point for more research institutions in the region, on their way to joining the big project consortia.

Possible role of **WBC-INCO.NET** is to either directly through project activities provide input to the EC and in that way assist the WBC, or through PC members from EU countries, enable that they speak in one voice at PC meetings.

3.3 Presentations of invited experts

3.3.1 ETNA project

Dr Katarina **TZITZINO** (PRAXI / HELP-FORWARD Network, FING) presented the ETNA project, a European transport NCP networking project. She described the composition and method of appointment of NCPs, as well as their activities, aimed at

advising, assisting and training activities. It is intended to help NCPs around Europe to work better together. There are 14 main participants, but it is not only for NCPs from EU countries, institutions from Associated Countries can participate as well.

3.3.2 ERA-NET TRANSPORT II

Mr Walter **WASNER** from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology presented the ERA.NET Transport II, which is aimed at coordination of governmental bodies in charge of transport research. The Era-Net Transport II is running until 2010, with currently 14 partners from 11 countries, and the whole field of surface transport is covered. There are still possibilities for involving new partners, which can be a chance for the WBC transport research. It is not a prerequisite to become a full partner in ERA.NET Transport II, an observer status is also possible.

ERA-NETs show that only a fragment of EU research funds is in the FP. The larger part is at national level, so the coordination between these two and bringing responsible ones to coordinate activities are necessary. So, countries outside the EU should also understand that it still depends a lot on their own national funding, and that it is crucial for each country to develop its own capacities, without relying too much on FP7. Also, there are plenty of other opportunities for countries to cooperate in research, besides this programme.

He finally stated: "Don't get too lulled into the FP7 Programme, but develop your own capacities. There are other possibilities to cooperate".

3.3.3 Examples for a Technology Platform (ERRAC) and a FP7 Project (TransNEW)

Mr Dennis SCHUT first presented two projects, TRANSSLO (completed) and TransNEW that was based on TRANSSLO.

ERRAC: Since FP4, countries were involved in Programme Committees, but, since FP6, the idea was to form a European Technology Platform. Its role is to advise the EC on transport research, especially on calls for proposals. Most of the proposals they made were included. An important fact is that the platform is open to everyone and further partners are welcome to participate. There even exists a small budget for experts.

TRANSSLO: mapping the transport research potential in Slovenia. At the time of Slovenian EU accession, new MS had a very low participation rate in the FP. Therefore, the support programme in Slovenia and awareness raising activities then started to develop. A Slovenian national transport research area was created.

TransNEW: CSA, aimed at new MS and AC. Among the WBC, Serbia is the only one included for the time being, and, being the WP leader, the Serbian partner also included one of the institutions from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project covers all transport modes, including aeronautics. It will assess transport research capabilities, foster cross-border cooperation, and create databases of expertise. They should work closely with WBC-INCO.NET to avoid duplication of efforts and to complement each other. A mapping exercise on the research potential in the participating

countries will take place. The contract is not signed yet, and it can be expected that more partners are possibly included. The expected starting date of TransNEW is September 1, 2009.

3.3.4 Initiatives such as FEHRL, ERTRAC and the Construction Technology Platform

Mr Steve **PHILIPS** presented these different initiatives, as well as other smaller projects, that involve partner from the region (CERTAIN, SPENS, ARCHES).

4 Consultation session on Environment: key issues and discussion

[The agenda and list of participants are provided in Annex 3](#)

The consultation session on Environment was held in Skopje, FY Republic of Macedonia on June 16 and 17, 2009.

The participants were welcomed by Ms Snezana **BILIC-SOTIROSKA**, Head of Sector of Science and Technological Development in the Macedonian Ministry of Education and Science, and Mr Andreas **KAHLE** from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, representative of the WP leader. The participants introduced themselves to each other during *tour de table*.

Mrs Ulrike **KUNZE**, PT-DLR and Ms Tatjana **KNEZEVIC**, Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro gave an introduction to the WBC-INCO.NET project and its WP2, as well as to the aims and the scope of the session. The representative of the EC DG RTD, Mr Nikolas **CHRISTOFORIDES**, presented the FP7 Environment Work Programme. These presentations gave an outlook of what was expected as an outcome of the session.

4.1 Presentation of S&T systems and regional research priorities

The analytical experts involved in the development of the national background reports presented the findings of the consultation process that took place prior to the workshop. In general, these presentations were in line with the recommended structure of the background reports, therefore covering the following aspects:

- legal and strategic framework for RTD in general and implications to health research
- institutional framework
- health research performers
- human resources
- research projects – national and international
- investment (governmental and other) – general (as percentage of GDP), or specific (e.g. on equipment)
- investment – equipment
- publications and patents
- SWOT analysis
- list of priorities (general); priorities based on readiness; priorities based on future potential

4.2 Discussion on joint priorities and recommendations for joint generic activities

Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	FYR of Macedonia	Kosovo ⁹	Montenegro	Serbia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marine and coastal protection, control and monitoring • climate change • Sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation • Waste waters and solid waste management • Environmental technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change – reflection on environment and economy • Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management • Water Resources Management • Land use • Species control and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of resources • Environmental technologies • Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaner production • Environmental technologies • Climate change • Cultural heritage • Solid waste management and recycling • Integrated water management • Sustainable management of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • pollution and risks • Environment and health • Sustainable management of natural and man-made resources • Environmental technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biodiversity • cross-border ecosystems • climate change • marine ecosystems • sustainable resources management • cleaner production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental technologies • Developing materials for environmental protection • Climate change • Cultural heritage • Energy efficiency • Monitoring and waste management • Biodiversity

Table 5: Research priorities of the WBC in the field of environment taken from their national background reports.

In total, 6 regional research priorities in the field of Environment were commonly agreed upon:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Cleaner production/Environmental technologies
- Ecosystems (cross border and marine)
- Cultural heritage

As initial input to the discussion, it is explained that through all regional meetings that were supported through FP, the successful ones eventually had topics incorporated in the WP. E.g. a call will be published at the end of July 2009, dedicated to Africa, based on a similar meeting carried out a few years ago. , the region should provide its priorities, taking into consideration EC policy actions and find a common policy ground. The purpose of research is to advance knowledge. An interdisciplinary approach is always considered as an added value.

In the field of environment, there are different needs to respond to and different questions to answer, e.g. climate change and its consequences. One of the objectives is to be proactive, see future problems and start research now (reduction of CO₂ emissions by 2% in Greece is a result of research). If one starts from the moment an idea is initialised, it will then take 5 years for it to be implemented.

⁹ Under UNSCR 1244

It often happens that teams are dealing at the same time with environment and security. Many topics are to be dedicated to security, and not only to political security. Often topics for environment are to be found under different Themes, not only that particular one (Health, Food, Nanomaterials and how they can be used in water treatment).

It was observed that finding synergies with the Commission is not the only thing that has to be done. It is actually much more important to try and coordinate different actors at national level. It is necessary to provide better connections between research and industry sectors. Research should be part of each sectoral strategy.

In order to provide broader picture, another question is brought up – the purpose of prioritising. We have to prioritise based on the strengths and relevance. One should always bear in mind that FP is difficult to enter; it is not the only fund, though important and useful. There are also national budgets, IPA, CARDS, donors, bilateral.

However, when defining the priorities, a country should start from its strengths. In the region, there are not always reliable data on excellence. Publications and citations are traditional methods of measuring it, but these data are still lacking in some of the countries. In general, their number is still low in the region as a whole. Another way of measuring excellence is participation in international programmes. Next, existence of spin-offs also shows excellence.

In funding research, the process of moving from institutional to performance based funding is initialised according to different indicators. They can be negotiated (citationa, projects, spin-offs). It is a way of improving research.

One of the proposals was to define the Balkan targets and priorities in accordance with the existing EU directives. There should be a strong connection between the possibilities provided between the two DGs ENV and RTD, and base the approach on that.

The presentations show that a considerable amount of work has been done, a lot of information and knowledge accumulated. Strategic impact should be defined and emphasis given to the areas where progress can be expected. Starting from this, emphasis should be put on development prospects, then problems, and then priorities. The research component should have an innovation element, especially since this is going to be addressed by future calls (e.g. innovative system solutions for municipal sludge systems and management). It is important to arrive to topics well defined with innovative elements inside, and determined where they fit into the overall concept. Integrated and cross-cutting projects (soil and water, biodiversity, forestry) can be a solution that fits the needs. The EC always positively observes intentions to include the region of the Western Balkans into European research. However, it should be considered what can be done without geographical specification, since the countries are now equal members to the programme, and no SICAs are foreseen. The challenge is to successfully integrate them into the wider EU context, so when calls are published, WBC should have major strengths to address the issue.

For the definition of sub-topics, the simplest approach is used, since this often proves to be the most efficient. Based on the priorities defined in the reports, working groups are defined in accordance with this selection in order to refine them and define sub-

themes. To support that fact, the participants are reminded that the meeting is not a formal part of decision making, even though it will provide input to the actual decision making process.

Each of the groups has a rapporteur, in charge of presenting the findings to the panel:

- a. Biodiversity (Sulejman Redzic)
- b. Climate change (Gordana Stefanovic)
- c. Sustainable management of natural resources (Arsen Proko)
- d. Cleaner production/Environmental technologies (Mira Vukcevic)
- e. Ecosystems (cross border/marine) (Tarzan Legovic)
- f. Cultural heritage (Janja Ranogajec)

The discussion about possible topics in biodiversity was rather fruitful. Biodiversity in the region is rich, and in recent times, in this area more spots were identified as development centres of flora, fauna and spongi. There are a lot of endangered species, communities, ecosystems and landscapes. It is a leading lab where original soil genesis, sea genesis took place. It is the richest region in Europe regarding biodiversity.

A Biodiversity information system of WBC should be improved. The existing data are not sufficient; important strategic documents are also lacking.

The **inventory** is important, using all data (genetic, landscape, diversity), especially to create an inventory for the control of non native species – it is necessary to identify them, and develop methods for their conservation.

Biodiversity is subject to **climate change**. The inventory can be used as a good indicator to monitor the changes.

It is necessary to establish a **gene bank**, especially of genetic resources, since a lot of genetic resources are lost in this region..

Sustainable use of biodiversity is extremely important.

It would be also important to define **protected areas** as a tool of sustainable conservation.

The region provides challenges for all types of experts: marine, fresh water areas, karsts, mountains, etc. It attracts different research institutions and researchers from all the countries.

Another topic is the standardisation of indicators and the development of a methodology to identify hot spots.

Biodiversity should have a functional database for each level and for each country.

b. Climate change, pollution and risks

This topic should be taken into consideration due to several reasons: increase of temperature, annual precipitation, consequences to human health, energy efficiency changes.

Consequences of climate change on **health**: we are facing a new epidemiological situation in the future, it would therefore be important to perform the **health impact assessment** and develop a **cluster** of environmental related diseases.

Prediction of natural hazards – almost all excluding endogenic are connected to climate change: wild fires, erosion, landslides, etc. what can be done is to **adopt hazard modelling**. The existing models are aimed at insurance companies. Next, models for **chain hazard effects** can be devised (?). Another interesting topic is **multi-hazard** modelling, since it has a wide use, and a real methodology has to be developed.

Also, the global climate change has two sides. Apart from the destructive effects, it will induce good things. With view to that, a proposal on **how we can maximally benefit from the climate change in our countries** can be considered. As obvious benefits, two are mentioned: more rainfall in the north will result in more water, in the south higher temperature and less rain; this provides preconditions for renewable energy (e.g. wider use of solar panels).

c. Sustainable management of natural resources

1. Development of innovative scientific topic quality indicators for specific and sensitive areas (Riparian vegetation)

Serbia, Croatia, Albania, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia and Kosovo are interested to develop this potential project.

Flat land vegetation (or non zonal vegetation or riparian vegetation) is most sensitive and seriously damaged by human interference without taking in consideration the principles of dynamism and natural development of ecosystems. Some efforts are done by respective governments to recover these areas, sometime planting exotic species, causing often a loss of autochthonous species or biodiversity.

Natural rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems is one of the priorities of environmental policy of the respective countries.

For a successful process of land rehabilitation the establishment of an innovative and scientific monitoring system is one of the most important aspects. On the other hand some peculiarities concerning the vegetation types and geographic characteristics in the respective countries exist, and are interesting to consider.

The Albanian and Kosovo experience is still not adequate and the other countries are using different indicators and not a unified methodology.

Another important aspect is the utilisation of new techniques, equipments, software and scientific analyses.

This innovative monitoring system will be involved in the:

- 1.1. Establishment of unified indicators for the monitoring of water, soil and vegetation.
- 1.2. Establishment of a unified methodology on water and groundwater quality monitoring

- 1.3. Establishment of a unified methodology on soil quality monitoring
- 1.4. Establishment of a unified methodology on vegetation quality monitoring;

2. Development of novel unified methodologies for Sustainable management of terrestrial natural resources

Serbia, Croatia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia and Kosovo are interested to develop this project.

To manage the terrestrial ecosystems in a sustainable way means to develop without conflicts the natural productive system, the elements of which are: ecosystem, society and economy.

Promoting an integrated manner and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems in an equitable way is the aim of this potential project.

Based on the qualitative (bad or good) and quantitative (less or much) factors, which affect the sustainable management of the natural productive system, a unified statistical (multivariate) analysis, encompassing ecosystems, economic and social factors, has to be established and used in order to identify the best managerial alternative, based on area conditions and community needs.

Another innovative aspect of this potential project will be the use of vegetation type (Braun Blanquet *sensu strictu*) as management unit and land use planning.

The main issues to be addressed are:

- 2.1. An ecosystem-based approach, whereby activities affecting the terrestrial environment will be managed in an integrated manner promoting conservation (long-term objective) and sustainable use (e.g. periodic planning of fisheries) in an equitable way for terrestrial ecosystems.
- 2.2. An ecosystem-based approach focusing on anthropogenic impacts especially in vulnerable areas.
- 2.3. A knowledge-based approach, in order to achieve a better connection to policy-making.
- 2.4. Development of integrated resources based on improved understanding of complex human-environment interactions in vulnerable region.
- 2.5. Identification of reference sites and detection of hot spots like soil, surface and ground water contamination as well as air pollution in most endangered areas.
- 2.6. Determination of the pollution emission and listing of pollution emitters in the area.

3. Forests of Dinarides: environmental conditions, diversity and stability

Forests are one of the most important natural resources of South-East Europe, with very high environmental factors (e.g. water purification, carbon sinks) and economic meaning (e.g. forestry, tourism).

Dinarides are a particular geographical region with very important biodiversity aspects as the presence of endemic, rare and endangered species, high ecological diversity and other environmental aspects.

They are of a very high scientific importance for the identification of:

Dissemination level: RE

- 1) different historical approaches to forest management,
- 2) spatial inhomogeneities in human population density,
- 3) influences of recent war (especially in excessive exploitation of wood) and
- 4) different exposure to air pollution from distant sources.

The aims of the proposed research are:

- 1) mapping spatial distributions of forest types and dominant tree species diversity in the entire area of Dinarides,
- 2) estimating spatial distributions of naturalness and stability of these forests and
- 3) explaining these distributions as a function of environmental factors.

This research will be methodologically based on:

- 1) remote sensing (e.g. aerophotogrametric images with high spatial resolution, time-series of satellite images with high temporal resolution) which will be used for recognition of spatial patterns,
- 2) optimized field sampling (e.g. tree species populations, parameters of forest health status) which will be used as ground truth information,
- 3) raster-GIS techniques (e.g. DEM-based modelling) which will be used for processing of spatial data and
- 4) environmental modelling techniques (e.g. multivariate statistics, neural networks) which will be used for data analysis and building of prediction models.

4. Cleaner production/Environmental technologies

This topic should be dealing with the main problems in environmental technologies in general:

- **wastes** (recycling and re-use),
- **waste waters** and
- **emissions**

First of all, it is important to stress the significant multilateral and cross-border dimension of all proposed issues since it is evident that the whole region has the same problems with thermo-power plants, industrial and agricultural wastes and emissions. Besides that, all countries in the region (Serbia, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Albania) have expressed their interest to deal with aforementioned issues.

The same problems are shared, and possibilities concerning the human resources and existing infrastructure are almost equal. The specific heritage the countries share from the past (in the terms of large but inefficient industrial premises and a lot of by-products that can be re-used) lead to the conclusion that efficient multilateral teams in this field can be built up.

Methods and techniques that might be used are not "super innovative", but what is innovative in this proposals is the approach of re-use going together with pollution matters.

Environmental techniques are always considered as more applied than basic research, which might be the main disadvantage of the priority, but anyhow it exists in the interest of many countries in the region as the pure reality.

In the end, the proposed topics from this working group would be:

1. Valorisation of waste materials from thermo-power plant as the raw materials in ceramic processing
2. Industrial sludge and mud as the constructive raw materials
3. Valorisation of agriculture wastes as bio-adsorbents in waste water treatment
4. Treatment systems for drinking, surface and waste waters containing active pharmaceutical ingredients and personal care products
5. Treatment of waste waters containing used metal-working fluids
6. Non-metallic materials as the adsorbents in gas emission treatment

5. Ecosystems – marine and terrestrial

Ecosystems

1. Innovative integrated monitoring and modelling
Develop common indicators. New methodology in diagnostics and prediction of ecosystem states. New methodology for sustainable management of ecosystems (freswaters, marine and terrestrial).

2. Ecosystem based approach

An integrated ecosystem-based approach focused on protection issues of immediate and long-term concerns, exploiting synergy of in situ integrated monitoring, mathematical modelling and remote sensing.

Proposed activities would be: identification of reference sites and detection of hot spots like soil, surface and ground water contamination as well as air pollution in most endangered areas.

For example, in forest ecosystems:

The aims of the proposed research are: 1) mapping spatial distributions of forest types and dominant tree species diversity in the entire area of Dinarides, 2) estimating spatial distributions of naturalness and stability of these forests and 3) explaining these distributions as a function of environmental factors.

This research will be methodologically based on: 1) remote sensing (e.g. aerophotogrametric images with high spatial resolution, time-series of satellite images with high temporal resolution) which will be used for recognition of spatial patterns, 2) optimised field sampling (e.g. tree species populations, parameters of forest health status) which will be used as ground truth information, 3) raster-GIS techniques (e.g. DEM-based modelling) which will be used for processing of spatial data and 4) environmental modelling techniques (e.g. multivariate statistics, neural networks) which will be used for data analysis and building of prediction models.

Besides the understanding of dominant spatial patterns in distribution of forests over the entire area of the Dinarides, comprehensive results of proposed research will enable involved countries to develop and optimize common strategies for the forest management, especially in the fields of environmental risk assessment and sustainable use.

Policy in fisheries has implications on marine ecosystems. It has caused extermination of species in European waters. According to EU estimates, 80% of waters are 'overfished'. But, now there is an extinction of fish, due to the lack of an ecosystem approach. The models are for single populations, which is wrong. It should be ecosystem based. It is good to have a model that is being improved from year to year. It has already been done in some cases.

Countries: Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Croatia and Kosovo¹⁰ are ready to participate.

6. Cultural heritage

Environmental Hazards in Cultural Heritage - Development of Knowledge Base for Effective Western Balkan Protection Strategy

In recent years, the countries of the Western Balkan have shared serious adverse changes in ambient conditions. Namely the countries have suffered an increase in temperatures, UV radiation, fluctuations of temperature and humidity, increased hours of sunshine, wind, rainfall and cyclic wetting and drying and disastrous floods. The changes occurred across regional borders and included neighbouring states from Slovenia to Serbia (along the river Sava), from Hungary, Croatia and Romania (the Danube and the Tisa), Adriatic coast (Montenegro Croatia and Albania), Ohrid lake (Macedonia and Albania) and Skadarsko lake (Albania and Montenegro). These changes caused enormous damage in built environment and there is still not enough knowledge for adopting a common strategy and policies in prediction, prevention and restoration of the cultural heritage.

Besides economic losses which are extremely high, the immovable Cultural /Architectural Heritage in the broader region has also suffered serious damages.

As the floods cannot be prevented, the Balkans will have to face further accidents due to the change of climate.

Taking into account the research data and experience in different fields of investigations of the project participating countries, it could be concluded that there is still a serious lack of relevant data and documentation on material characteristics and building structural elements of architectural heritage as well as a lack of equipment for in situ characterisation. This could be used in multidisciplinary research of prevention, mitigating and repairing damages caused by climate changes and especially floods.

The innovative aspect of the research is based on the fact that the approach is interdisciplinary incorporating the teams of architects, material, social and

¹⁰ Under UN SCR 1244

natural scientists. With interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary insight into the complex problem, the methodology, methods and techniques will be considerably improved.

The focus of the research aspect will be environmental monitoring both indoor and outdoor: dust, noise, temperature, humidity, irradiation, sensors for groundwater table, sensors for capillary water, structural assessment using advanced radar and ultrasound techniques, wireless technology, the latest cultural heritage diagnostic technologies and innovated approach comparing to the existing practice (the regions are not connected and there is not any centre of excellence in the field of culture heritage).

The objectives of the proposed project are:

- to explore strategies to build the regional network and a database on the immovable cultural heritage classified according to its sensitivity to climate changes and flood exposure along the most sensitive river corridors;
- to review existing protocols, methodology and best practices in Western Balkan Countries concerning the risk assessment and prevention measures in the field,
- to improve and develop non-destructive techniques and methods for detection of types and mechanisms of damages on specific structures and materials caused by chemical, physical and biological effects,
- to develop strategies for both prevention and reparations in the case of defined action type.

Focusing on research, it is expected to obtain new results in the fields of architecture, building materials and related natural and social sciences coupled with new knowledge (processes and mechanisms of building degradations) towards defining a scientific approach considering prevention, protection and restoration of culture heritage as valuable part of the regional environment.

These sub-activities address multidisciplinary research contributing to the conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage. They include the need to respond to the challenges resulting from the changes of our natural environment as well as from man-made activities and focusing on damage assessment and preventive conservation of the cultural heritage.

The major goal of the project is the initiation of an effective interdisciplinary collaboration for the development of interregional approach and strategy for the cultural/architectural heritage protection based on the knowledge and information of risk hazards of climate changes. Besides the contribution to cultural heritage protection, these activities will contribute to further building activities in flood-prone regions.

The transnational and cross-border dimension of the proposal is self-evident in the fact that the concept of the proposed research is based on the geographical, historical and environmental similarities and differences of the Balkan regions taking into account the overlapping of some specific sub regions (Panning region, river corridors, and mountain area) and their specific eco systems.

The experience of all the participating countries and the results in the research field should be coupled in integrated cross-border cooperation with the expecting synergetic effect in a research programme of multilateral interest and benefit.

Further discussion on recommendations

After these reports, the discussion went on, also aimed at defining generic recommendations and proposals for joint strategic activities.

As for the priorities, there is quite a fundamental bias. First of all, it should be clear that the European Commission does not plan to publish specific calls (SICAs) within FP 7, aimed at the WBC region. WBCs are competing on equal footing with the others. There are many other opportunities of funding. FP7 would be only one of the possibilities. The work here is to find good ideas for cooperative research with and within WBC. Part of it can find its way into EU funding. There is an ongoing and continuous **regional call** of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, providing support to preparatory work, with the aim to finally submit a proposal to the FP. There are no thematic preferences, and one organisation from Germany and one from the Balkan countries are requested as a minimum.

As for the cooperation so far, mostly individual contacts were used, efforts were never made to upgrade it to the regional level. However, the approach is changing, and researchers observe that the region is important. So, what would be appreciated in this respect are networking events and brokerage events. Equipment sharing is another opportunity. It would be quite useful to make summer schools on different topics, where researchers would meet and teach students and leave to younger students the cooperation.

It is acknowledged that the EU MS representatives, as well the EC representative are present, which will give them insight into our problems and help us find solutions. This consultation session can be used as a starting point to organise this kind of meetings on a regular basis.

www.wbc-inco.net is acknowledged as a good portal, where a lot of useful information can be found.

In summary, the **recommendations** for generic and strategic activities would be:

- Encourage networking, that would bring about the intensification of cooperation: networking events (workshops like consultation sessions)
- Organise summer schools on specific topics
- Create trans-border Centre of Excellence
- Facilitate more multilateral cooperation
- Improve governance of research policies, consult research community in policy development
- Harmonise data bases on human resources (researchers, research institutions, agencies) by NCPs, following the model of ICT;
- Create a data base on research infrastructures
- Guide of cartography of excellence (for China) has been developed in DG RTD/ENV , similar can be done for this region
- Enable further capacity building, develop research infrastructure
- Encourage exchange of students

4.3 Advertise the project ERA Westbalkan data base. Presentations of invited experts

Prof. Lothar **ERDINGER** (University of Heidelberg) presented **EULIMNOS: Successful International Cooperation in WBC**, in the area of Shkodra Lake, with Montenegro and Albania as regional partners. Cooperation is ongoing since 2001, realised through different initiatives and activities, either project-based or not. Apart from Germany, other EU countries were or are actively involved in this initiative: Slovenia, Sweden, Austria, UK.

5 Annex 1: AGENDA of Consultation session on Health



WBC-INCO.NET - Setting of regional research priorities

Consultation Session on Health

May 12 and 13, 2009 in Tirana/Albania

Annotations

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

9:00 - 11:00	<p>Opening remarks Edmond Agolli, Ministry of Education and Science of Albania, MOES Welcome Adriana Gjonaj, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, ALBANIA Welcome. Ministry of Health, Albania</p> <p>Introduction to WBC-INCO.NET (Task T2.4) Outlook on expected results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Regional research <u>priorities</u>b) <u>Recommendations</u> for further cooperation with WBC and major generic activities <p>Ulrike Kunze, International Bureau of the BMBF, Germany Tanja Knezevic, Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro, MPIN</p> <p>FP 7 Work Programme on Health – responding to research priorities Joana Namorado, European Commission</p>
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Dissemination level: RE

	<p>First discussion on a) Regional research priorities Moderator: Karine Sargsyan, Medical University of Graz, Austria</p> <p>Chair: Andreas Kahle, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany</p>
11:00 - 11:20	<i>Coffee</i>

In this first session, we would like to set the scene for the Consultation Session giving an introduction in the WBC-INCO.NET and outlining the major issues of the workshop. Especially, we would like to look ahead on the expected results on, firstly, regional research priorities and, secondly, giving recommendations for further cooperation possibilities with the Western Balkan Countries (WBC) and major generic activities. For both topics, an outline will be given as input for the workshop participants.

One of the aims of the workshop is to specify regional research priorities of common interest for the WBC and the EU Member States, which can then be used as input for the FP7 Work Programme of the Theme of Health. Therefore, an overview of the FP7 Work Programme is given. In order to achieve the goal of specifying common priorities for all the WBC, input from the participating WBC researchers and other experts is needed to take into account and to incorporate the regional needs.

11:20 - 12:20	<p>Presentation of S&T systems and regional research priorities (Part 1)</p> <p><u>Presenters</u> Albania (Genard Hajdini, Expert, Institute of Public Health, ALBANIA) Bosnia and Herzegovina () Croatia (Prof. Dr. Ana Marušić, University of Split)</p>
12:20 - 13:40	<i>Lunch</i>
13:40 - 15:00	<p>Presentation of S&T systems and regional research priorities (Part 2)</p> <p><u>Presenters</u> FYR of Macedonia (MSc Aspazija Sofijanova) Kosovo (under UN SCR 1244/1999) (Dr. Lul Raka, Faculty of Medicine, University of Prishtina) Montenegro (Prof. Dr. Bogdan Asanin, University of Montenegro) Serbia (Mrs. Olgica Djurkovic-Djakovic)</p>

The aim of this session is to present the S&T systems in the WBC regarding the field of Health and to highlight the major findings of the national country reports assembled prior to the Consultation Session. For each presentation, a maximum of 20 min (including a short discussion) are foreseen.

Ideally, during the presentation each analytical expert will propose a list of 3 to 5 research priorities in the field of Health. The assembled national country report will be distributed to the other countries prior to the workshop via the nominated expert and MPIN.

15:00 - 16:30	Discussion / refinement of regional research priorities (in 7 parallel working groups) Moderator: Karine Sargsyan, Medical University of Graz, Austria
16:30 - 16:50	<i>Coffee</i>
16:50 - 18:00	Report of the working groups Summing up of regional research priorities Moderator: Karine Sargsyan, Medical University of Graz, Austria
19:30	<i>Dinner</i>

In these two sessions, we will discuss and identify regional research priorities based on the great lines of the FP7 Work Programme on Health and the presentations of the S&T systems and the national country reports by the WBC in the previous session. The discussion will take place in 7 parallel groups according to the national delegations. The participating stakeholders from the WBC will be asked to give input to propose concrete research topics and to finally set up a priority list of not more than 5 priorities by all WBC. Back in the plenary session, a matrix will be produced with all research topics of the WBC to finally reach consensus on about 3 to 5 regional research priorities commonly agreed on.

Ideally, as a final result all WBC agree on a list of 3 to 5 research topics which are of highest priority for the WBC in the field of Health and that are of common interest also for the EU. These research topics can then be used as input to the FP7 Work Programme, a regional call, actions under a Regional Research Strategy etc.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

9:00 - 10:45	Presentations by invited experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cooperation possibilities in the field of Health (working title) Marta Barrionuevo Hafner, Health Institute Carlos III, Spain b. Public Health Research in the Western Balkan Countries Helmut Brand, Maastricht University, The Netherlands c. Biobanking for biomedical research Karine Sargsyan, Medical University of Graz, Austria d. SEE Health Network Alban Ylli, Albania
10:45 - 11:15	<i>Coffee</i>

While discussions on day one were primarily devoted to regional research priorities, day two will focus on recommendations for further cooperation with the WBC. Prior to the discussion, external experts will highlight different aspects which are connected to the Health theme. This will include presentations with the objective to view the Health sector from different perspectives and to introduce further ways and instruments of cooperation to the workshop participants. This session will give the opportunity to raise new issues within the Health theme and to discuss new ways of cooperation between the participants of the Consultation Session and with other initiatives, networks, etc.

11:15 - 12:45	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Recommendations for further cooperation with WBC and major generic activities</p> <p>Development of the regional strategy for research and development in the Western Balkans – <i>state of play</i></p> <p>Tanja Knezevic, Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro, MPIN</p> <p>Moderator: Helmut Brand, Maastricht University, The Netherlands</p>
12:45 - 13:00	<p>Conclusions</p> <p>Edmond Agolli, MOES</p> <p>Tanja Knezevic, MPIN</p>
13:00 - 14:30	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
14:30	<p><i>Consultation session ends</i></p> <p><i>Departure</i></p>

This last session of the workshop will be devoted to an open discussion about further cooperation possibilities with the WBC, and especially aspects of the Health area. Each WBC delegation will be asked to formulate practical recommendations for major generic activities and on how the cooperation between the WBC in the area of S&T (Health) can be further developed. Ideally, a list of recommendations given by the participating WBC and the external experts will be compiled which could then be incorporated into a regional research strategy for in the near future.

Possible topics covered could include: A major generic activity regarding exchange and mobility, procedures for the exchange and dissemination of information, networking, infrastructure development, regular, annual meetings between researchers and policy makers in the WBC to discuss issues of a regional research strategy, etc.

List of participants:



WBC-INCO.NET Priority setting
“Consultation session on priority setting in the field of Health”

May, 12th and 13th 2009
Hotel Tirana International

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¹¹ Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ms Anastasika Poposka from the Medical Faculty in Skopje finally could not participate in the meeting. The costs of her accomodation are being borne by the WBC-INCO.NET project.

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6 Annex 2: AGENDA of Consultation session on Transport



WBC-INCO.NET setting of regional research priorities Consultation Session on Transport

May 19 and 20, 2009 in Sarajevo/Bosnia-Herzegovina

Venue: Hotel Holiday Inn, BiH - Sarajevo

Zmaja od Bosne 4, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia and Herzegovina

AGENDA with annotations Tuesday, May 19, 2009

9:00 - 11:00	<p>Welcome speech Mr. Ammar Mirascija, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Tour de table</p> <p>Introduction to WBC-INCO.NET (Task T2.4) Outlook on expected results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Regional research prioritiesb) Recommendations for further cooperation with WBC and major generic activities <p>Ulrike Kunze, PT-DLR, Germany Tanja Knezevic, Ministry of Education and Science, Montenegro</p> <p>FP 7 Work Programme on Transport Karsten Krause, European Commission; DG RTD, Transport Directorate</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Andreas Kahle, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany</p>
11:00 - 11:30	<p><i>Coffee</i></p>

In this first session, we would like to set the scene for the Consultation Session giving an introduction in the WBC-INCO.NET and outlining the major issues of the workshop.

Dissemination level: RE

Especially, we would like to look ahead on the expected results on, firstly, regional research priorities and, secondly, giving recommendations for further cooperation possibilities with the Western Balkan Countries (WBC) and major generic activities. For both topics, an outline will be given as input for the workshop participants.

One of the aims of the workshop is to specify regional research priorities of common interest for the WBC and the EU Member States, which can then be used as input for the FP7 Work Programme of the Theme of Transport. Therefore, an overview of the FP7 Work Programme is given.

In order to achieve the goal of specifying common priorities for all the WBC, input from the participating WBC researchers and other experts is needed to take into account and to incorporate the regional needs, which will be done in the next session.

11:30 - 12:30	Presentation of S&T systems and regional research priorities (Part 1) <u>Presenters</u> Albania (Mr. Ali Dedej) Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mr. Saša Džumhur) Croatia (Prof. Dr Ivica Smojver, University of Zagreb)
12:30 - 13:40	<i>Lunch</i>
13:40 - 15:00	Presentation of S&T systems and regional research priorities (Part 2) <u>Presenters</u> Kosovo (under UN SCR 1244/1999) (Mr. Ramadan Duraku) Montenegro (Dr. Danilo Nikolic, University of Montenegro) Serbia (Mr. Radosav Jovanovic, University of Belgrade)

The aim of this session is to present the S&T systems in the WBC regarding the field of Transport and to highlight the major findings of the national country reports assembled prior to the Consultation Session. For each presentation, a maximum of 20 min (including a short discussion) are foreseen.

Ideally, during the presentation each analytical expert will propose a list of 3 to 5 research priorities in the field of Transport. The assembled national country report will be distributed to the other countries prior to the workshop via the nominated expert and MPIN.

15:00 - 16:30	Discussion / refinement of regional research priorities (in 7 parallel working groups) Moderator: Dr. Katerina Tzitzinou, HELP-FORWARD Network, Greece
16:30 - 16:50	<i>Coffee</i>
16:50 - 18:00	Report of the working groups Summing up of regional research priorities Moderator: Dr. Katerina Tzitzinou, HELP-FORWARD Network, Greece
19:00	<i>Dinner</i> Restaurant "Kibe" Vrbanjuša 164, www.restorankibe.ba

In these two sessions, we will discuss and identify regional research priorities based on the great lines of the FP7 Work Programme on Transport and the presentations of the S&T systems and the national country reports by the WBC in the previous session. The discussion will take place in 7 parallel groups according to the national delegations. The participating stakeholders from the WBC will be asked to give input to propose concrete research topics and to finally set up a priority list of not more than 5 priorities by all WBC. Back in the plenary session, a matrix will be produced with all research topics of the WBC to finally reach

consensus on about 3 to 5 regional research priorities commonly agreed on. These research topics can then be used as input to the FP7 Work Programme, a regional call, actions under a Regional Research Strategy etc.

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

9:00 - 10:45	<p>Presentations by invited experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ETNA NCP Dr. Katerina Tzitzinou, HELP-FORWARD Network, Greece Transport NCP b. Example for an ERA-NET: ERA-NET TRANSPORT II Walter Wasner, Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation And Technology, Austria c. Examples for a Technology Platform (ERRAC) and a FP7 Project (TransNEW) Dennis Schut, UIC - Belgium d. Initiatives such as FEHRL, ERTRAC and the Construction Technology Platform Steve Philips, FEHRL, Belgium <p>Chair: Alma Hasanovic, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>
10:45 - 11:00	<i>Coffee</i>

While discussions on day one were primarily devoted to regional research priorities, day two will focus on recommendations for further cooperation with the WBC. Prior to the discussion, external experts will highlight different aspects which are connected to the Transport theme. This will include presentations with the objective to view the Transport sector from different perspectives and to introduce further ways and instruments of cooperation to the workshop participants. This session will give the opportunity to raise new issues within the Transport theme and to discuss new ways of cooperation between the participants of the Consultation Session and with other initiatives, networks, etc.

11:00 - 12:30	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Recommendations for further cooperation with WBC and major generic activities</p> <p>Development of the regional strategy for research and development in the Western Balkans – state of play</p> <p>Tanja Knezevic, Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro, MPIN</p> <p>Moderator: Dennis Schut, UIC Belgium</p>
12:30	<p>Short conclusions and closing</p> <p>Alma Hasanovic, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Tanja Knezevic, MPIN Montenegro</p>
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
	<i>Departure</i>

This last session of the workshop will be devoted to an open discussion about further cooperation possibilities with the WBC, and especially aspects of the Transport area. Each WBC delegation will be asked to formulate practical recommendations for major generic activities and on how the cooperation between the WBC in the area of S&T (Transport) can

Dissemination level: RE

be further developed. Ideally, a list of recommendations given by the participating WBC and the external experts will be compiled which could then be incorporated into a regional research strategy for in the near future.

Possible topics covered could include: A major generic activity regarding exchange and mobility, procedures for the exchange and dissemination of information, networking, infrastructure development, regular, annual meetings between researchers and policy makers in the WBC to discuss issues of a regional research strategy, etc.

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7 Annex 3: AGENDA of Consultation session on Environment



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE



SECTOR OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

WBC-INCO.NET setting of regional research priorities

Consultation Session on Environment

June 16 and 17, 2009 in Skopje/Republic of Macedonia

Venue: Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje,
(Rector's Building –Round Conference Hall)

Address: bul. Krste Misirkov bb, 1000 Skopje, R.Macedonia
Tel.: 3293-293 (call center), Fax: 3293-202
www.ukim.mk , ukim@ukim.edu.mk

AGENDA with annotations

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

<p>9:00 - 11:00</p>	<p>Welcome Ms. Snezana Bilik- Sotiroska, Head of Sector of Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Education and Science</p> <p>Tour de Table</p> <p>Introduction to WBC-INCO.NET (Task T2.4) Outlook on expected results a) <u>Regional research priorities</u> b) <u>Recommendations</u> for further cooperation with WBC and major generic activities</p> <p>Ulrike Kunze, International Bureau of the BMBF, Germany Tanja Knezevic, Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro, MPIN</p> <p>FP 7 Work Programme on Environment Nicholas Christoforides, European Commission, DG RTD, Environment Directorate</p> <p>First discussion on a) regional research priorities Moderator: Dr. Andreas Kahle, BMBF</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Snezana Bilik-Sotiroska</p>
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In this first session, we would like to set the scene for the Consultation Session giving an introduction in the WBC-INCO.NET and outlining the major issues of the workshop. Especially, we would like to look ahead on the expected results, firstly, on regional research priorities and, secondly, giving recommendations for further cooperation possibilities with the Western Balkan Countries (WBC) and major generic activities. For both topics, an outline will be given as input for the workshop participants.

One of the aims of the workshop is to specify regional research priorities of common interest for the WBC and the EU Member States, which can then be used as input for the FP7 Work Programme of the Theme of Environment. Therefore, an overview of the FP7 Work Programme is given.

In order to achieve the goal of specifying common priorities for all the WBC, input from the participating WBC researchers and other experts is needed to take into account and to incorporate the regional needs, which will be done in the next session.

<p>11:30 - 12:30</p>	<p>Presentation of S&T systems and regional research priorities (Part 1)</p> <p><u>Presenters</u> Albania () Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sulejman Redzic, Academician) Croatia (Dr. Slaven Dobrovic, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture)</p>
<p>12:30 - 13:40</p>	<p><i>Lunch at the same Venue</i></p>

13:40 - 15:00	<p>Presentation of S&T systems and regional research priorities (Part 2)</p> <p><u>Presenters</u> FYRepublic of Macedonia Dr. Natasa Markovska, Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts-Institute of Energy- Skopje Dr. Atanas Kocov, Dean, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering - Skopje Kosovo (under UN SCR 1244/1999) (Dr. Agim Gashi, Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Sciences) Montenegro (Prof. Mira VUKCEVIC, Vice-Rector of the University of Montenegro) Serbia (Prof. Predrag Jovanic)</p>
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The aim of this session is to present the S&T systems in the WBC regarding the field of Environment and to highlight the major findings of the national country reports assembled prior to the Consultation Session. For each presentation, a maximum of 20 min (including a short discussion) are foreseen.

Ideally, during the presentation each analytical expert will propose a list of 3 to 5 research priorities in the field of Environment. The assembled national country report will be distributed to the other countries prior to the workshop via the nominated expert and the Montenegrin Ministry of Education and Science.

15:00 - 16:30	<p>Discussion / refinement of regional research priorities (in 7 parallel working groups)</p> <p>Moderator: Andreas Khale</p>
16:30 - 16:50	<i>Coffee</i>
16:50 - 18:00	<p>Report of the working groups Summing up of regional research priorities</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Ulrike Kunze, PT-DLR</p>
19:00	<i>Restaurant ANJA, City Park,. Jodran H. Dzinot br. 12^a – Skopje</i>

In these two sessions, we will discuss and identify regional research priorities based on the great lines of the FP7 Work Programme on Environment and the presentations of the S&T systems and the national country reports by the WBC in the previous session. The discussion

will take place in 7 parallel groups according to the national delegations. The participating stakeholders from the WBC will be asked to give input to propose concrete research topics and to finally set up a priority list of not more than 5 priorities by all WBC. Back in the plenary session, a matrix will be produced with all research topics of the WBC to finally reach consensus on about 3 to 5 regional research priorities commonly agreed on. These research topics can then be used as input to the FP7 Work Programme, a regional call, actions under a Regional Research Strategy etc.

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

9:00 - 10:00	Reports from the working groups from Day 1
10:00-10:45	Presentations: EULIMNOS: Successful International Cooperation in WBC Lothar Erdinger , University of Heidelberg Chair: Ulrike Kunze, PT-DLR
10:45 - 11:00	<i>Coffee</i>

While discussions on day one were primarily devoted to regional research priorities, day two will focus on recommendations for further cooperation with the WBC. Prior to the discussion, external experts will highlight different aspects which are connected to the Environment theme. This will include presentations with the objective to view the Environment sector from different perspectives and to introduce further ways and instruments of cooperation to the workshop participants. This session will give the opportunity to raise new issues within the Environment theme and to discuss new ways of cooperation between the participants of the Consultation Session and with other initiatives, networks, etc.

11:00 - 12:30	Discussion Recommendations for further cooperation with WBC and major generic activities Development of the regional strategy for research and development in the Western Balkans – <i>state of play</i> Tanja Knezevic , Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro, MPIN Moderator: Claire Nauwelaers (UNU-MERIT, Netherlands)
12:30	Short conclusions and closing Ms Violeta Atanasovska , Ministry of Education and Science of Macedonia Tanja Knezevic , MPIN Montenegro
12:30 - 13:30	<i>Lunch at the same Venue</i>

	<i>Departure</i>
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This last session of the workshop will be devoted to an open discussion about further cooperation possibilities with the WBC, and especially aspects of the Environment area. Each WBC delegation will be asked to formulate practical recommendations for major generic activities and on how the cooperation between the WBC in the area of S&T (Environment) can be further developed. Ideally, a list of recommendations given by the participating WBC and the external experts will be compiled which could then be incorporated into a regional research strategy for in the near future.

Possible topics covered could include: A major generic activity regarding exchange and mobility, procedures for the exchange and dissemination of information, networking, infrastructure development, regular, annual meetings between researchers and policy makers in the WBC to discuss issues of a regional research strategy, etc.

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8 Annex 4: useful links and addresses

Health:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/health_en.html

<http://www.meduni-graz.at/1449>

<http://www.snz.hr/ph-see>

<http://www.healthncpnet.eu>

Transport :

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

http://ec.europa.eu/research/transport/index_en.html

<http://www.transport-ncps.net>

www.help-forward.gr

<http://www.transport-era.net/>

www.errac.org

Environment: